



News Release

Arizona Department of Public Safety

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY CRIME LAB DNA TESTING AND ANALYSIS MAKES THE DIFFERENCE IN A CRIMINAL TRIAL

After a five-day trial, a Cochise County Superior Court Jury convicted Michael Weeks of Sexual Assault, Kidnapping and Aggravated Assault. On July 6, 2007 Weeks was sentenced to a flat-time prison sentence of 44.5 years and ordered to register as a sex offender.

Arizona Department of Public Safety Criminalist Curtis Reinbold conducted DNA testing and analysis in preparation for the trial. His courtroom testimony clearly established the defendant had sexually assaulted his girlfriend, allegations which the defendant denied at least 15 times in the course of two taped interviews with Detectives of the Sierra Vista Police Department.

"Curtis' dedicated work, preparation and trial testimony were critical to this successful prosecution. I look forward to working with Curtis in future cases," said Marc Offenhartz, Deputy Cochise County Attorney.

"This is an example of the amazing work performed every day by employees within the Arizona Department of Public Safety's Crime Laboratories. Whether the work is originating from our lab in Phoenix, Flagstaff, Lake Havasu or Tucson, DPS Lab employees work very hard to help convict the guilty thereby helping our communities become safer," said Roger Vanderpool, Director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.